

## CLINICAL PHARMACY ACTIVITIES AT A PEDIATRIC HEMATO-ONCOLOGY UNIT

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**Purpose:** Clinical pharmacists promote safe, appropriate and effective medication use for patients within health-care centers. By working as part of a health-care team, they are able to closely monitor patients drug therapy and make recommendations on the selection of the best medication for the patient's condition, the correct dose and duration of therapy. The benefits of clinical pharmacy services are well documented in the literature. However, few reports highlight the role of the clinical pharmacist in pediatrics, especially in oncology.

The aim of this project was to establish the importance of a clinical pharmacist in a pediatric oncology ward.

**Method:** A total of 383 interventions were analyzed.

**Results:** They included provision of information (23.2%), clinical interventions (72.1%), provision of specific products (3.4%) and identification of process faults (1.3%). The clinical interventions (n=276) were divided in change of therapy (31.5%, (e.g. dose-adjustment of antibiotics, identification of interactions, . . . ), increased monitoring (23.9%), start of therapy (22.1%), stop of therapy (6.9%), clarification of prescriptions (6.2%), substitution (5.8%) and adding a drug (3.6%). A total of 93.9% of the clinical interventions were accepted. According to the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical classification, most interventions concerned anti-infectives (J, 48.5%), antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents (L, 12.4%) drugs for the central nervous system (N, 11.9%) and drugs for the alimentary tract and metabolism (A, 11.2%). The pharmacist was also involved in practical research projects (e.g. development of guidelines for treatment of pain, mucositis, anti-emesis), information and education on pharmacodynamics, compatibilities, and in administration procedures.

**Conclusion:** In addition to the experience and quality of medical staff, it is useful to maintain a clinical pharmacy program on the ward. The high degree of acceptance of interventions, highlights the role of the clinical pharmacist in a pediatric hemato-oncology ward in encouraging the safe and rational use of drugs.